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Crossing

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A Roxbury Community College Publication

New Provost

From the President

Dr. Grace C. Brown

Welcome back to the college as we begin the first semester of Academic Year 2001. We have had many achievements and challenges over the summer, and I am delighted to share some of the major events with each of you.

Congratulations are in order to the faculty union on the completion of the contract negotiations and the new contract with its many benefits. A very special welcome

to Dr. Janis Jones, Roxbury Community College's new provost. I am also pleased to join with the provost to welcome new members of her leadership team, Dr. Jane Aswell, Mr. Walter Silva, Ms. Joanne Mulready-Shick, Dr. Everest Onouha and Dr. Tina Saxon, director of advising, counseling and tutoring, who was instrumental in leading the installation of the successful Writing Lab for RCC, which was funded by the Board of Higher Education through a grant.

It was suggested that my new provost and I share our opening comments with the entire college community. To that end, my remarks will be included in this issue, and Dr. Jones will include her remarks in the next issue of the *Crossing*.

The Challenge of Change at Roxbury Community College.

We are proud to note that the technology grant was approved by the governor, and we are enthusiastically and passionately moving forward into implementation of this major investment into RCC. We invite your participation into the imminent successes of this grant, which is one of the largest to RCC in its history. The faculty are challenged

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Dr. Grace C. Brown

Our new provost, Dr. Janis W. Jones, is a native New Yorker, who comes to RCC with 26 years of community college experience. Dr. Jones completed her early education in the public schools of New York City. She then went on to complete a baccalaureate degree in French from Fisk University, a master's degree in linguistics from New York

University, and a doctorate in higher education administration from Nova Southeastern University.



Dr. Janis W. Jones

Dr. Jones taught English as a second language at Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC), the largest (16,000+) community college in The City University of New York (CUNY) system, before accepting a dean's position at the same institution in 1994. Dr. Jones believes that making the transition from college faculty to college administrator is similar to what is commonly known as "culture shock." Dr. Jones says, "Forget about the time and the money. Teaching is (or should be) about dedication and commitment, not dollars. But, when you enter administration, the first and most obvious reality is that you think you no longer have any time for friends, family or any of the things that you used to do, and sometimes take for granted, because the job is making demands on your time that you at first resent, until you can pull yourself together enough to reorganize your priorities. The next thing that happens is that you are torn between your loyalty to your faculty colleagues, to whom you have now become "them," and the new promise of commitment you have made to the president of the institution. Both of these can be the source of great stress in the first months, and in some cases the first year, of one's transition from faculty to administration."

"But, I am happy to say that at some point, either you get it and you stay, or you don't and you leave. I stayed. I

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New Provost

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stayed because I felt I was taking on a new intellectual challenge, and I always find that exciting. I stayed because I was fortunate enough to have had mentors who said they recognized talent and potential in me. I stayed because I am confident of my ability as a community college educator in the classroom and my ability as a community college educator in administration, and that is why I am here at RCC.”

Dr. Jones says that she views Roxbury Community College as her new challenge. Her decision to come here was based on her belief in the mission of RCC and her trust in the integrity, leadership and vision of Dr. Grace

Brown in support of the college’s mission to promote academic excellence in all of its endeavors. She believes that her years of teaching and administrative experience will serve her well at Roxbury, “an undiscovered jewel,” in her words.

When asked how she likes to spend her leisure time, Dr. Jones laughed and said she likes to spend her leisure time doing non-job-related activities. She says that she is willing to remain on the job for as long as the job takes to get done, but when she leaves, she’s gone until the next workday begins! Her leisure time activities include reading, traveling, and listening to music. She also enjoys adding to her sizeable collection of elephants and chess sets from around the world.

Roxbury Community College’s First Ever Playground Opens!



President Brown celebrates the daycare center's playground opening.

September 7, 2000 marked another major accomplishment for the college, with the opening of the college’s playground. The playground, funded by generous donations from Fidelity Foundation, TJX Corpora-

tion and private donors, including the vice-chairperson of the RCC Foundation, William Sapers, provides a safe alternative for our daycare center children. President Grace C. Brown saw the need for a new playground several years ago, and with combined efforts by the college and the RCC Foundation, her vision has now been realized. Representatives from Paige Academy, the RCC Foundation and the college attended the opening ceremonies that included a musical presentation by Paige Academy and acknowledgment of the members of the RCC Foundation, major donors, the members of the administrative team, the staff and students of Paige Academy.

IN MEMORY OF

Sherri L. Mack

Roxbury Community College lost a valuable member of our consulting staff when, late in August, Sherri Mack passed away. Ms. Mack had only recently joined the Office of Administration to work with the college on a variety of publications and public relations endeavors. “In the brief period of time Sherri and I worked

together, I was extremely impressed with her ability to quickly grasp concepts and turn them into products. She was extremely bright and eager to help us insure that the college received the recognition and positive press we deserve. She will be very much missed,” stated Dr. Grace Carolyn Brown.

Sherri’s experience as a self-employed management consultant enabled her to teach at several adult education centers. Her interest in volunteerism led her to share her talents both with the *People’s Voice* newspaper and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts’ Commission for the Blind.

She completed her master’s degree in media and communications management at Emerson College and was very active in the Delta Sigma Theta sorority. Active at Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Jamaica Plain, she is survived by her parents, a sister and two grandmothers.

RCC PARTNERS WITH STOP AND SHOP CREATING NEW EDUCATIONAL AND EMPLOY- MENT OPPORTUNITIES



Rear left: Dr. Tossie Taylor, RCC, Mr. Ken Burrows, Stop&Shop Front left: Mr Robert Clark, Stop&Shop, Dr. Grace Brown, RCC.

Stop and Shop and Roxbury Community College recently entered into a new partnership, which will create employment opportunities for RCC students, as well as provide scholarships, mentoring and a career counseling program.

Stop and Shop has agreed to sponsor three scholarships annually in the amount of one thousand dollars each. In addition, they will offer RCC students internship opportunities in store operations and loss prevention areas. Stop and Shop executives will be available as expert speakers to make presentations to our students on topics such as market research, business management, personnel and labor relations, and risk management. These executives will also be available to provide mentoring and career counseling to our students.

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Dr. Raymond Turner, executive dean of information technology, on the publication of his newest book, Developing Concepts in Science Throughout the 21st Century, co-authored with Vladimir Russakovsky and published by Kendal/Hunt Publishing, Inc

Four of our superb student athletes who graduated from RCC in June, have entered four-year colleges on athletic scholarships. They are: Chris Reid, who is attending the University of Prince Edward Island in Canada; Bilal Abdullah, who is attending the University of Southern Connecticut; Lerick Charles, who is attending Mass College of Liberal Arts; and Tremaine Skeens, who is attending St. Andrews College in North Carolina.

RCC on the Move

Please welcome the following new employees to the college:

Dr. Valerie Abrahamsen, registrar
Noel Parris, director of the Upward Bound Program
Dr. Tina Saxon, acting Director, Writing Center
Dr. Janis Jones, provost

Jeffrey Hannibal, assistant dean of students. Mr. Hannibal is now working at a private school.
Susan LaRocco, faculty member, Nursing; is now a faculty member, Nursing, at the University of Massachusetts, Boston

The following employees have resigned their positions: Shellie Simons, dean of Nursing, to become dean of Nursing at Bunker Hill Community College

The Adult Literacy Resources Institute has moved to the University of Massachusetts Boston. Best wishes to Dr. David Rosen and his staff!

I'm Glad You Asked

I am a full-time employee of Roxbury Community College and as such contribute a percentage of my salary into the state retirement program. I was confused when I recently learned that a co-worker contributes a different percentage amount than I do. How can this be?

Answer: As you know, membership in the retirement system is mandatory for nearly all public employees if they are regularly employed on a part-time or full-time basis. All members make mandatory pre-tax contributions through payroll deduction. The difference in percentage of contribution occurs because members contribute based upon when they joined the system. It is state law that determines the contribution rate.

If you joined the system prior to January 1, 1975, your contribution rate is 5%; if you joined between January 1, 1975 to December 31, 1983, your contribution rate is 7%, between January 1, 1984 to June 30, 1996, your contribution rate is 8%, and beginning July 1, 1996, your contribution rate is 9%.

If you joined the system on or after January 1, 1979, and your annual salary is \$30,000 or more, the state withholds an additional 2% of that portion of your salary that is in excess of \$30,000. This 2% is in addition to the 7%, 8%, or 9% already being deducted from your regular compensation.

President

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to develop the computer science curriculum, and we are certain that under the leadership of Walter Silva and Chiso Ndukwe-Okafor, we will have one of the best curricula in the area. We have received the NIH grant, which was written in collaboration with Northeastern University. This past summer we held our second annual summer enrichment program for 20 students who plan to pursue baccalaureate degrees at Northeastern or another four-year institution. Also, a few of RCC's staff attended Northeastern on a tuition-free basis as a result of our continuing partnership with our neighbor.

Roxbury Community College was the only community college that had students listed in the Access Scholars Program published in the *Globe* last month. These scholars are the top

Boston colleges. I am most proud to say RCC was among the finest institutions chosen by our BPS graduating class. This summer we opened the Commonwealth Honors Program for RCC under the extraordinary leadership of Dr. Everest Onuoha. These highly important programs, with their emphasis on excellence, will result in an even richer intellectual base in the college. We have started the Minority Business Leadership program, and we are working hard to find additional funding to support this initiative. The Criminal Justice program has been slow in starting up and fewer students than we had planned are enrolled.

The new coordinator, Mr. Souliy Wan N'Tani, is working with us to actively market these valuable programs. The college is fortunate to have again brought in an unqualified audit from the independent audit team. We will balance

the budget, even though the funding sources do not seem to increase at the same rate as our growing needs. We will seek to more aggressively diversify our funding sources through emphasis on grants and contracts and through building enrollment. This last year of the five year grant from Balfour will require that we develop another proposal for the next five years. One of the major keys to our success has been partnerships. The Timothy Smith Grant funded program has allowed us to jump-start into the "electronic-RCC concept," and we now have over 40 community-based partners who are also "Timothy Smithers."

Roxbury Community College is evolving into the premier institution its founders created it to be. Continuing on the pathway to excellence, we now have unprecedented stability as we organize ourselves to be

in line with new expectations for institutional effectiveness. While our mission and strategic plans have been applauded by the Board of Trustees and the Board of Higher Education has given us high marks, we are aware that we stand on the precipice of realizing our fullest potential. Over the next five-year period, we envision New England's only historically minority institution to grow into the region's finest public community college, serving all those who come to us with quality programs and curricula, state-of-the-art technology and the strongest commitment for student success. RCC has the ability to revolutionize the lives of our students so that they become successful and live their lives to the fullest extent of their potential.

Wishing you a productive and successful academic year!

Grace Carolyn Brown
President

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Future Events

Wednesday, December 6
7:30 p.m. in the Media Arts Center

Presidential Lecture Series
Glenn Lowery, Director of the Institute on Race & Social Division at Boston University.

Saturday, December 9
Third Annual RCC Black Tie Gala

Noteworthy

The Northeastern University/Roxbury Community Partnership ended its second successful summer enrichment program. Of the returning RCC students in the program, four were awarded \$10,000 scholarships. Congratulations to all RCC students.

Crossing

Crossing is the newsletter of Roxbury Community College. It is published for the staff, employees, alumni, students, supporters and friends of RCC. Send inquiries and correspondence to RCC, 1234 Columbus Avenue, Roxbury Crossing, MA 02120-3400. 617-541-5330 (office). 617-541-5365 (fax). Attention: Dr. Nadine Dowling, Administration Bldg.

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Editorial Note: Effective immediately, RCC has chosen the Chicago style format as its' editorial choice.